

Tape 334

DALE STEWART

Interviewed by Kathi Irving, 6 December, 2002, at his home, 1711 North 3000 West in Vernal.  
Transcribed by Marilyn Hunting January 2003

Kathleen Irving (KI): Could you tell me when you were born and your parents' names?

Dale Stewart (Dale): I was born November 25, 1920. My parents were Guy Ramsey Stewart and Amanda Hatch Stewart. My mother's parents were Zinna Murray and, I don't know the Hatch.

KI: The Hatch, was it Jeremiah?

Dale: Probably.

KI: There were a lot of Hatches here at the time that's why I was wondering. [Ed. note: Amanda's parents were Jeremiah Ricey Hatch and Zinna Murray Hatch.]

Dale: I think that was what it was. I know my grandfather was dead. I don't know.

KI: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Dale: I had three half-brothers. It was my mother's first marriage and my dad's second. Then Max and Lora and I were the full brothers and sister. Lora was the sister. I was the oldest. The half-brothers were the oldest. I was the oldest, then Max, then Lora.

KI: What were your half-brothers' names?

Dale: Guy, Fritz, and Glen Stewart.

KI: Where did you grow up?

Dale: I was born in Vernal and grew up in Jensen on a ranch.

KI: Can you tell me about the ranch?

Dale: It was 365 acres right on the Lake, Stewart's Lake. In fact, in those days the Lake came right up to the spring house they had there. It's been moved since then. You could get in a boat, go clear across Green River. There were a lot of cattails, a lot of ducks. In fact, I could tell you a funny story, maybe I hadn't ought to.

I was eight years old and I had gone to school; there were thousands and thousands of ducks on our place at that time. I came home from school and Mother was in bed, had the covers up. She said, 'Guess what I have here?' Boy, I pondered on that for quite a little bit: a duck. It turned out to be Max.

KI: You thought your mom had a duck in bed with her?

Dale: Well, I thought that was all it could be, I hadn't been trained. But when Lora came along, we knew all about it then.

KI: Can you remember some things you used to do as a child out on the ranch? Tell me about your chores.

Dale: Well it varied. I think I was eight years old and had an old cow to milk. That was my job. Had to bring in the coal and wood in the evening to start the fire in the morning. Also, feed the stock.

KI: Was there a lot of stock on the ranch?

Dale: Yes, we had about ten cows and about thirty head of sheep. We just kept them and when we wanted a mutton, we'd go butcher it out. We also had a bunch of pigs. I think we had three saddle horses.

My half-brother, Fritz, he'd go up on Blue Mountain and we asked him how long it would take him on this horse that had a running walk. He said, "Well, I don't know. I'll time it for you." He was to the top of Blue Mountain, or kind of the side. He went from the house there in Jensen to Queen's cabin in forty-five minutes. I don't know if that is a record or not, but it ought to be.

KI: Where did you go to school?

Dale: Well, I went to school in Jensen to begin with. It was a pretty neat school. We got to play marbles and softball. We even braided the Maypole. The highway was a dirt road back then. I think it got graveled in 1938 and paved in 1939. What else did you want to know about?

KI: I wanted to know what the school looked like.

Dale: Have you ever seen the old Naples School, the two of them? Well, it looked like one of them.

KI: How many rooms were in it?

Dale: Four rooms, I'm pretty sure.

KI: Were there two grades in each room?

Dale: Yes.

KI: Do you remember any of the teachers?

Dale: Yeah. Am Caldwell and Miss [Mildred] Bailey. She's up here and fell and broke her hip. So she is just waiting to check out.

KI: Miss Bailey wasn't very old when she was teaching.

Dale: No, she was a young lady and wasn't married. She married Grant Hacking. My first grade teacher, we called her Miss Johnson. I don't know what her first name was. In fact, she stayed with my parents for one or two years. She boarded there.

KI: You went to the eighth grade in Jensen, then where did you go to school?

Dale: I went to the Uintah High School. On a school bus. It left Jensen at eight and got to the high school at nine. In the afternoon at four o'clock we'd catch the bus home and get home about five o'clock. It was a long day.

KI: What kind of activities did you like to do at school? Which classes did you like?

Dale: Well, I liked mathematics and spelling, geography, history. I liked them quite well.

KI: Did you ever play sports, basketball or football?

Dale: Well, I did for the church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Just on my own, I played marbles. In fact, I won a whole sackful.

KI: Do you remember a game called Anti- I- Over?

Dale: Sure do.

KI: Did you use to play that, too?

Dale: Throw it up and if they caught it they would run around and throw the ball at you.

KI: Did you play it over the top of a building?

Dale: Over the building, yes. It was a lot of fun.

KI: Can you describe your ranch house for me?

Dale: Well, I had some pictures of it that you folks had of it. There were three different houses. But the last one was a brand new one that was built in 1930, cost the sum of \$8,000. It had a big living room, and a place where the buffet sat, and three bedrooms, and one bathroom. The upstairs had two beds, and the rest of it was for ping pong or pool or something like that. It was pretty nice. In fact, it is still standing and looks good. They have built on it, some of the people that bought it. I think Snows are the ones that bought it.

KI: Your brother, Max, told me you had an outhouse, a three-holer, four-holer?

Dale: It was a three-holer. There was two on top and a little one lower.

KI: He told me about sticking his head in one of those holes and what you did, Dale. It is such a funny story! You must have been about sixteen years old.

Dale: Fourteen or sixteen, something like that.

KI: He said you came in and just said, "Well, you're going to have to live there the rest of you life." It's really a funny story.

Dale: Yeah, it is. He put his head in this way and then turned it. All he had to do to get it out was turn it back and lift it up. I think I told him we would have to cut his ears off to get him out.

KI: How long did you live on the ranch before you moved off?

Dale: I was sixteen when Mother and Dad separated. That left me and Mother to support all of us. I might be jumping the gun, but when I went to the Marine Corps, that May 1943, that was pretty close, I got an allotment that they sent to Mother, Max, and Lora, and that helped support them. Before that happened, I trapped muskrats. I had trapping rights down on the lake that my Dad had and that helped us out.

Elwood Pitt and I was having a contest to see who could skin a muskrat the quickest. They had to be warm to do this. We would just slit them down the back legs and pull it through and jerk it clear to their front legs and pull the front legs out, pull it clear down to the eyes, well, the ears first, and cut the ears off and get down to the eyes and cut them out and then skin down to the teeth and take the hide off. I was thirty seconds.

KI: What would you do with the hide?

Dale: Sell it. I had a deal with Russ Montgomery. I think I made him rich. I'd sell every hide I got skinned, but I wouldn't stretch them, and he'd give me a dollar a hide. One day, I remember I got sixty-six.

KI: When your parents separated, did you move up here into Maeser?

Dale: Well, we moved a lot of times. The first move was in Maeser, over to the Granny Nickells place. She was my great-grandmother. Zinnie Murray was my grandmother. Parna Ann Ramsey Stewart was my other grandmother.

KI: Where else did you live?

Dale: All over Jensen. Did Max tell you about these moves?

KI: He did. But some of them he didn't remember very well.

Dale: When the muskrat trapping played out, I went to Amanda, Indiana, to get a job there. I got a job in the steel mill. I worked there for a couple of years and the war broke out. I came home and was going to enlist and Mother talked me out of it. She says, "Wait till they call you. You'll

be in it long enough.” So, that’s what I did.

When they called me, I had registered in Indiana, and practically all the guys my age in Jensen and Vernal was already in the service. Everybody would see me and say, “How come you’re not in the service?” Anyway, I asked them if I could leave from Vernal instead of Amanda, Indiana. They said that would be fine. So, a month before I had to go, they let me know when I had to go, so I went out and enlisted. I had a choice of any branch I wanted. I felt, well, the Marines was the first to fight, so I joined them. There was three others from Vernal that joined that same day: Gus Hatch, Vernon Richards, myself, and a little short, blond-headed kid. I can’t think of his name right off.

KI: You didn’t stay together, did you?

Dale: No, we went through boot camp together, then we split up. I and another kid from Utah joined the Motor Transport School and Amphibious School. After that, he and I was transferred to the Asiatic and the Pacific for a short time. Then I was transferred back over to the Transient Center. That was in Pearl Harbor. Well, they put me into a two-week rest camp and after that I came home to Vernal. It was in the wintertime and I like to froze. I was home for ten days and had to go back to get a discharge at Clearfield, Utah. The major said, “If you ever need a home, you got one in the Marine Corps.” I said, “No way.”

KI: Did you see combat?

Dale: I was in combat zones, put it that way. I wasn’t in regular combat. We would dump them off and go back and get another load. It was a little bit dangerous.

KI: When you came back from the war, what did you do? Did you snap Vivian right up?

Vivian: No, he was married before.

Dale: I married Ila Ray Timothy, March 24, 1950. She was from Roosevelt. We had four girls, Darcy Lynn Stewart, Janna Loy Stewart, Mindy Lee Stewart, and the last was Dayla Stewart.

I would like to mention that I graduated from the Uintah High School and after that I went to building and construction up to Utah State Agriculture College. Wilbur Murray went with me and we went to that class and came back. After the war, the government helped us with tuition and stuff. First, I went to two summer schools along with my other schooling that I got. I wound up with three years plus in school. I was taking a course in diagnosis in bacteriology and I met this cute little gal and forgot all about school.

Do you want to hear a wild story? Before I got married, I was working for Stanolind Oil. It was a seismograph crew in Vernal; later they moved to Texas. I got up this one morning and I had had a real strong dream. In this dream, I wasn’t driving, another guy was driving, and he wrecked the truck.

We had been up to Tabiona and was on the way back for the night. We got down to that turn-off and stopped, but everything up to then was just exactly like the dream. It was the dream. In the dream I got in this wreck and had a broken hip. The old truck rolled two and a half times, flipped me out the window and there was about three foot of snow, the other side of Duchesne

about ten miles. The first roll, I hurt my hip; the second roll, I cushioned off from Bill Mosely, and the third roll threw me out. When I hit my hip the first time, it hurt real bad and when I was sailing through there, I thought, "I hope I don't fall on this hip." Plop - I did. So they wanted to take me... I was going to get married and it postponed the marriage some, but I got married the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 1950.

KI: You dreamed this and it happened?

Dale: I dreamed this and it happened. The only difference was in the dream it was a broken hip and reality it was a dislocated hip. They wanted to put me in a car and haul me off and I told them, "No way, I'll stay right here." Finally, the shock set in and I got so cold. "Come and get me and take me into the hospital!" Bill Parent was driving one of the company trucks and they got me in that. On the way down, I thought (this was the dream part), I thought, "How am I ever going to get married?" Anyway, we got into Duchesne and the first aid gave me a shot and it didn't do anything. I still had plenty of pain. So, they sat there for a while and they took me to the Roosevelt hospital. En route, I thought, "How am I ever going to get married?"

KI: Was this right before your wedding?

Dale: Yes. It was just before. Before this dream started, I had a strong feeling: "Dale, tell them you're sick. Don't go." I thought it was over and it was just a dream. I didn't take the warning. You know, the story of the dream, it happened just like the dream did. I got a dislocated hip. I was in the hospital. They had taped my knees and ankles together and I had to lay on my back for six weeks. After that, they had me stand on it and it held, so I had to be on crutches for six weeks. I got the story a little mixed up there. I had to put the weight on after the two six weeks were over. It held. That was sometime in March.

I got married on crutches and I and my new bride went up the Uinta River and caught two limits of fish. We fished four weekends. Man, that was the best fishing I had ever seen. The Uinta River was so high that you couldn't wade it anywhere, the side streams. So, I found one place I thought we could wade it. So, we joined arms and went across, everything went great. We caught fish and came back. That happened for four weekends, then the river dropped so much that all the others outside started fishing. So, we quit and didn't fish there anymore that year. We were catching native cutthroat. We ate them. We had quite a bunch. 'Course we had a whole bunch of Timothys that liked fish. What we didn't eat, we let them have them.

KI: Do you remember when the 1933 Jensen Bridge was put in and Bridge Day?

Dale: I sure do. I was there. The old bridge or the new one they put in?

KI: Both of them.

Dale: Well, I don't know how to describe it. The old one was made out of wood and it had the piers across. It had wooden planks about like that. The vehicles, wagons, whatever, back then it was about half wagons and half cars. It had the deal up over the top, just like the new one did. The new one, they made a steel bridge and poured cement for the surface they crossed. I

remember they had a fire and would get a rivet hot and this guy would walk over and throw it up in the air and a guy up there would catch it, take a machine, and rivet the bridge. It was just like the old one in a sense, only it was bigger and stronger.

KI: The first bridge had a place for people coming and going? Two lanes of traffic?

Dale: No, just one.

KI: So, the second bridge had two. When they had the dedication of that bridge in 1933, did someone come out and speak?

Dale: I don't remember anyone speaking, but they probably did. Ward Murray was there and he told the story of throwing the rivets. It was quite interesting. One time I was down to the new bridge and old Bill Hatch said, "Just walk across that, on top of the bridge. That is what the guys that riveted it did, they just walked around." We got up there and it looked pretty scary to me. I thought, "If I lose my balance and fall,"—we had been diving in the river and knew it was deep. I thought, "If I get over-balanced and fall, I will just dive in the river or jump." We got across and went down, there were several of them, I didn't go, just once was enough. We went over it and down. I looked back at it and I thought I'd never make it.

KI: How old were you?

Dale: We were about between twelve and fourteen, old enough to know better, and it was scary. But as we grew up we were always doing something like that. Big tree come floating down Green River, we'd get our clothes off. Most of the time, way back then, they didn't use any clothes. We'd swim where people didn't see us. I cut some old Levis off real short. I was really amazed how much drag a swimming suit had on you when you were swimming. When you're in the nude, you just slip through the water. We'd climb around on that tree and it would roll some. It's a wonder we didn't get tangled up in it.

Anyway, later on we had a real strong wind and down below the bridge about a mile was a great big hole and stretch of river. The waves were about twelve foot. When you're down at the bottom, they were way up there. 'Course, we had to go down and swim it, not once but twice.

Another one I'll mention. It was above the Wall place. Used to be a hotel up there and up the river about a half mile or mile there was this pretty good rapid that would go up and down. So we thought it over and I decided I was going to try that and see what happens, not in a boat, just swimming. I got down about middle of it and a strong undercurrent just took me down to the bottom and rolled me. 'Course, I was expecting that. I just put my feet on the bottom and jumped up and got out of the whirlpool and finished going through the rapids. Doggone fools went down that about fifteen or twenty times. We lived through it.

KI: What other things did you do on the river? Did you fish on the river?

Dale: When the spring came, the first thing we did was fish. Pikeminnow, or squawfish minnow in those days. [Ed. note: the official name of this endangered fish was changed from squawfish to pikeminnow shortly before this interview was conducted.] We wouldn't always catch them, but

we would always catch a few of the big ones. 'Course, we caught a lot of humpies [humpback chub] and roundtail [roundtail chub] and so forth. Back in those days, the season was closed all winter and didn't open till around May 14<sup>th</sup>. I'm not positive about that. When trout season opened, then we would switch from, they called them trash fish in those days, we switched from them to trout [Colorado River cutthroat trout]. Then after the trout, when it got too cold to fish trout, we went ice skating.

KI: I think Max told me that Stewart's Lake was the best place to ice skate in the whole world.

Dale: It was. That's where I was trapping muskrats, too. We had a lot of people come down to skate. There was another one called Hoot Owl Flat. I told a story about my dad and I getting a couple of pretty good ones, about a fourteen and a twenty-four, I think it was.

KI: Pounds or inches?

Dale: Pounds. I can tell it briefly. We stopped at Hoot Owl Flat and my dad stopped there. There was a nice hole and I went on up where one part of the Ashley Creek came down through Uncle Lloyd's place. I went on up there and the first cast, I caught a fourteen-pound one, a squaw minnow. This was in 1947. I got the correct date on that from that lady from Roosevelt that wrote it up. You probably got one.

KI: I saw it.

Dale: Anyway, I stopped fishing and went back to show my dad, and he had a twenty-four-pound one. So that stopped our fishing. We just pulled our lines up and carried the fish home. I think that was the last trip I went with my dad. My dad had cancer of the stomach. That's about all that he did, was fish when he felt like it.

KI: Do you remember the fishing parties? Max mentioned you used to have fishing parties with your families.

Dale: Yes, Bill Hatch and I took seine rope and swung it across the Cocklebur. When we got it across the other end, we landed on shore and it pulled the seine across and out. I think they had about forty to sixty suckers [razorback suckers] and humpbacks. One squawfish minnow weighed in the neighborhood of twenty-two to twenty-four pounds. That's guess weight, but it had a head about that long. I don't think I was too far wrong.

KI: Did the women cook the fish or did the men?

Dale: Mostly women, I think they had both. Probably like four women and one man cooking and carrying them and whatnot. Cooked them in Dutch ovens. Boy, were they good.

KS: Did they have a lot of bones in them?

Dale: They sure did. The squawfish minnow. Did Max tell about the meat? My dad would trim



the head and clean it up?

KS: No.

Dale: Well, he would clean it up, off from one like that, and when he put it in to cook it, he would have from about from five to seven pounds of pure white meat, with no bones. He did that all the time. Then the other part of the fish, he would just slice it up like salmon and the bones were big enough and you didn't have any problem. You would just pull them out, eat around them or whatever, to get the meat off.

Even a roundtail was big, some would weigh five or six pounds. There would be about that much body and the rest tail and head, but they were eatable. You had to pick the bones. They were good tasting fish.

KI: Do you remember how they picked them?

Dale: Yes, they cleaned them good. I'm not sure if they skinned them or not. If they didn't, they just ate the meat off the skin. They would clean them up and roll them in flour, or cornmeal, or both, and put them in the Dutch oven. I liked to use butter, Crisco, or something like that.

KI: I wonder if they used bacon grease.

Dale: Yes, I'm sure they did. The main thing was to roll them in flour or cornmeal. They browned good. I never liked the idea of missing one of these parties. Had them every year.

KI: Was that mostly with your mother's family?

Dale: Yes. Jerry Hatch is my uncle and Bill is my first cousin. I can remember—I don't think Max knows anything about it, he was too young—I went down to the drain, the one that empties into Hoot Owl Flat. There was a big hole down where it emptied in and there was old Elton Hatch, I think, Bus Hatch, George Millecam's dad was there [Henry Millecam], and George had a .22. He was keeping care of it because his dad was drunk and he wouldn't let him have it. I will never forget, old Elton Hatch was out wading around, up above where the fish were being pulled out, "Oh, that tickles, boy, there's a lot of fish in here." I thought, "Yeah, I'll bet." Anyway, when they pulled it on the bank, I never saw so many fish in one haul in my life. They had squawfish minnows, I think there were four big ones in that haul, majority was the humpback and the sucker—they looked just like the humpback, only it didn't have the hump.

That other one that Jerry pulled out, he had one catfish. It would go about eight pounds. That was just when the catfish was starting in the river. I wished they'd never seen it. I would rather have the minnow. But the catfish doesn't have as many bones, doesn't have as many as a trout even.

KI: Let's go back to talking about your father. Did you see him much after your parents divorced?

Dale: Well, he didn't pay any child support. Yes, I did. I'd go down and visit, go hunting

pheasants during pheasant season; shoot a bunch and give him some.

KI: Did he stay on the ranch?

Dale: He did till he passed away. He passed away in 1945. I think it was August, I'm not sure. I was in the Marine Corps. When I got home, he was dead and buried.

KS: Did your mother remarry?

Dale: Yes, she married Edgar Jones. They were married for quite a while. I think Mother was sixty-six when they got married and they were both in their high eighties or nineties before they died. I know Mother died at ninety-two and Edgar died four years before that.

KI: She raised the three of you children by herself?

Dale: Yes, with my help.

KI: After you got married, what did you do for a living? You had been going to school and you quit and got married, right?

Dale: Well, I applied for a job at Phillips Petroleum Company. They took my application out of a big stack, about like that, and I got a good job. The people with Phillips, Gene **Ghost??** was one and he wanted to hire a man with experience. "I hope you're satisfied," and mumbled a little bit and took off. I think his last words were, "Old Tex Hillyard, that old buzzard (no one seemed to like old Tex), he said he'd just take you and train you the way he wants you."

I worked for Phillips for five years. I was a roustabout. I did relief pumping and jobs like that when the steadies went on vacation, paid vacation. We didn't have to work at night there. After five years they united with Chevron USA. Of course, I had worked for five and a half years and they let me keep my seniority. I worked for Chevron USA for thirty-three plus years. Then I retired in April 1986. I've been retired for quite a while.

KI: What did you do after you got up in the ranks and were no longer a roustabout?

Dale: I was a pumper for two or three years, maybe a little longer. They were injecting gas back in those days, down the wells, to increase the oil flow. They put me on the gas injector. I did that for a while, then they started the water flood. So they put me on the water flood and I was the "A" operator till I retired. It paid good money. For thirty-three years plus I didn't have to worry about a job or anything. The job was, I just had to be there. It was a good one and I liked it. I guess every job you get a little bit tired of, but it was too good of one. About all I had to do was drive around and check the wells and make sure all the engines were running. 'Course when they were down, I had to go get them started up again.

KI: They gave you some good stock, didn't they?

Dale: They sure did. My stock was about \$80,000, I think.

KI: Did you live here when you were working for Chevron or did you live in Rangely?

Dale: I lived in Rangely most of the time. The last eight years I worked, I drove from Jensen to Rangely and worked that way. I was in Jensen when I retired. They were hiring Indians, Mexicans, and women back then. The day I retired, this little dark-headed gal come up and jumped up on the bench I was sitting on, and she says, "Tell me you will do one thing." I said, "What's that?" And she says, "You'll stay alive. You won't go home and die like most of these guys that retire."

KI: So did you and Ila raise your family mostly in Rangely?

Dale: Yes. We raised them in Rangely. She got MS [multiple sclerosis]. I think she had that about eleven and a half years before she got so bad we had to put her in a home. She passed away in 1986.

KI: Just after you retired?

Dale: I'm pretty sure of that.

KI: What did you do after you retired until you married Vivian?

Dale: I just drew Social Security and did a lot of fishing.

Vivian: The house he owned in Jensen, he moved it to Diamond Mountain and he fixed it up. He still has that house on Diamond Mountain. He spent a lot of time fixing up that cabin.

Dale: Yes, that is what I was doing in between, getting that cabin moved up there and fixed up. Then we went together two years before we got married. This is kind of a funny story. My grandson, Ramsey [Ramsey Dale Stewart], I had the house there and everything, but the, doggone, 160 acres they had, about fourteen cattle in there and they would come up right by the door, close to the house and spread a little manure, and I was complaining about it. I was going to have to build a fence and Ramsey, I think he was about twelve, he said, "But Grandpa, you get free fertilizer!"

I got a permit for four hundred lodge poles and went up and cut them by myself and cut them in two. I'm not sure if they were twelve- or fourteen-foot when cut in two. After I got the fence built around the cabin, I had about thirty left over. I guess I will have to use them for firewood, maybe they are starting to rot.

KI: Do you go up to the cabin in the summers?

Vivian: We just go and maybe spend a day and come back. His kids go up and enjoy it.

KI: Can you remember anything about any big issues in Vernal, things that maybe were important, that happened over the years?

Dale: That Doughboy was in the center of town. Swains had big buck deer that they raised. Boy, he had about a forty-eight-inch spread with points all over. He would go up and lay in Main Street right next to the Doughboy, and all the cars would have to go around him. He wouldn't move. The high school kids got to teasing him and he horned one of them a little bit, so the Fish and Game butchered him and had a barbeque, ate him. I sure would like to know who got the horns, I would've liked to had them.

I can tell you about a little doe down in Jensen, when we were living there. We had an apple tree and this little doe liked apples. She would stay in at Fran and Gladys Peterson's. She would go up there and bed all night with them, and the next morning she would come down with the kids to catch the bus. She would stay there with them till the bus stopped, then she would cross the road, come down and eat apples, then she would go over and bed by the shade of the house or one of the trees there till the school bus came and stopped. Then she would cross back up to Petersons'. She did that just like she could read. 'Course, Swains, I wasn't around it as much, but it was more magnificent.

There was no road going west out of Vernal. It went south, and then it cut west. It was called the Twists, going over to Roosevelt.

We went every year to the UBIC. I remember one time I got lost. Dad took me and I was watching some tractors. I was interested and looking around, and when I looked up, he was gone. I think I was nine. Anyway, I took off up through the people. I hate to admit this, but I was really boo-hooing it. Am [Amasa] Caldwell, he took me up and found my dad and mom and I quit crying.

This old Treve was one of the best bird dogs, the best dog, period, I ever had. Uncle Lloyd had the house right under the hill as you drop into Jensen and somebody dropped off what he called a Heinz 57. I bumped into Uncle Lloyd one day and he said, "Dale somebody dropped a Heinz 57." He says, "It's about six months old. I'm going to have to take it out and shoot it." I said, "Well, what kind is it for sure?" "Well, kind of a bird dog." I said, "Don't shoot it, let me look at it."

Sure enough, it turned out to be a registered Gordon Setter. It was black and its front legs were speckled like a lot of bird dogs. The first thing I did was to start training it. I trained it to retrieve. The last big test, I'd take a raw egg and roll it and she would retrieve it without breaking it. I shot sparrows and she would bring them, and I would have to pry her jaws off from it. I fixed me a little bundle with a handkerchief and barb wire in it. She retrieved it once and it cut her pretty good. Anyway, she didn't ever bite anything after that. I took her on her first hunt and she was still just six months. I think I shot three or four and she retrieved two of them and the others I had to go get. By the end of the season she was retrieving everything.

KI: What was her name?

Dale: Well, we went to the picture show called "The Mighty Treve." When we got the dog, we had Max, Lora and myself and we decided what to name it. The vote was "Old Treve." We had her about eleven years. People from Vernal would come down and want to hunt with me. I'd have sometimes as high as fifteen or twenty hunters. 'Course, she would spook the pheasants and whoever would shoot it, she would retrieve it and come to me. She was my dog. She wouldn't eat or anything for anyone else.

What happened to her? I went to the Marine Corps and was on the rifle range and them old M-1's were going boom, boom. I was sure glad Old Treve [wasn't there], she would go down there and get herself shot.

KI: Did you ever join any service organizations?

Dale: Well, no. I was fishing and hunting, that's what I concentrated on a lot. I got the first bow and arrow season. They put me in as president of the White River Bowmen. With the help of Auer Warren and Russ Hamilton, we got that season. 'Course, it is still going now. I think they've changed it a little. I could get one with a bow, one with a rifle, and if there is special areas, you could get one there.

Well, one time they had a multiple license. As long as you buy the license, you could kill a hundred if you wanted to, if you bought a license for each one of them. That's what doomed our deer herd. I saw one pickup that had eighteen bucks. Big high rack pickup, I couldn't believe it. It was parked in Rangely, and I went over and counted them. Then they had, for several years, two deer per tag. I thought I'd better get my share, so I would get a license for Ila and one for me. We'd go up and kill four bucks every year. *They* had to haul them all the way to California. I bet they didn't get there without them getting spoiled.

I was active in church, held a lot of different positions. I was in the bishopric one time, second counselor, ward clerk for nine years, executive secretary, a list as long as your leg over the last eighty years.

KI: What did you enjoy doing the most?

Dale: In the Church? All of it. They put me in as a Seventy, that was split families to visit. So I always got the tough ones. In fact, I went teaching one time, he was a Rooks, he had been on a mission and I forget now who my partner was, it may have been Dan Harrison. I went to the door as the leader and asked him about getting active in church. 'Course, he had been on a mission and I figured it wasn't too bad of one, and he answered me with a big long swear word. I went back to the bishop and told him what happened and said, "If you want to home teach him, you will have to do it yourself." He went, finally got the guy active. I don't know what he said to him. It was quite a thrill to be involved in helping to get someone active.

Like I said, I got wrapped up in archery. I got a buck every year. I think for three years straight, two years for sure, I got a brand new bow. I won for the biggest head, won two bows. Then in fishing, I went to Jones' Hole and I caught one that weighed nine pounds, fifteen ounces, and I got a four-pound a week later. I took it in to the sporting store and registered it and I thought I was registering for a week and instead I registered for the whole season. That nine-pound fish took first place all through the summer.

It got down into the fall and they started catching some of those lake trout. In came this little girl and she said, "Could I enter this for my dad? He caught it about ten minutes ago." A big story. They let her enter and it was like nineteen pounds. My poor little fish was only nine. About half an hour later, here came another guy with one of them and he entered it. That put me back in third place. But I did get a Wright and McGill rod and reel.

I took my daughter, I didn't have any boys so I had to make tomboys out of my girls, so I took Dayla. She was with me when I caught that one, so I gave her that brand new outfit. I was

fishing the creek and she was fishing a little bit. I looked up and she was gone. Then I saw her way down the creek, so I went and caught up with her. After I got there I said, "Where's your pole?" She'd left it up the creek. I thought, "Oh, my word!" There were a lot people fishing the creek then. I thought, "I will never get that pole back." I went back up there and found it just where she had laid it down. I still scold her about that.

KI: Do you remember what kind of holidays they had in Vernal?

Dale: Yeah, they had a rodeo every year. They didn't just hold them at Western Park. They had some on the Green River or just wherever they wanted to hold one. They had them year after year with no changes, except they would get rougher cowboys and tougher horses to ride.

Do you care if I tell you about a Brahma bull? I was bow hunting and I had Ila with me. We had been up on a pond where the deer watered. This old buck, one of the biggest I ever got, he came down, and after waiting and watching him coming back and forth, I was able to shoot him with my bow and arrow. Previously, we had seen a great, big red Brahma bull and this old bull saw us dragging this buck off the hill and here he come. It was about a thousand yards down there and here he come.

I had watched those rodeo clowns just duck the bull. I told Ila to get down in the sagebrush and hide. "I'm not going to run, I'm going to stand pat, and if he comes up to show signs of charging, I've got a good rock and I'll just hit him in the head with a rock and run like crazy." That old bull came up and stopped, and I just had my arm back with a rock and just stayed there. He looked at me, then he run off. It was quite an experience. I don't know when I got any scareder.

We were only about four hundred yards from the truck. We didn't have to drag it that far. I went down and got the truck, drove it up as far as I could, and loaded it in and took it down, skinned it out, and cut it up. This is something that amazes me. When you first start skinning, the houseflies, or blowflies, rather, are so thick, and you have to keep fanning them away. Just as soon as you get them skinned out and that glazes, they won't touch it. That was quite interesting to me.

KI: Did you keep the deer hide?

Dale: Yes, then I sold it. After it cooled down, we left it hanging out all night. You can keep deer meat for two weeks if you don't let the sun hit it and just sack and it and unsack it so will breathe and not mold. I got a few deer heads. Now, if a guy wanted to sell them, he could get a little bit of money out of them. I wouldn't sell them.

I could tell you about shooting a cougar with a bow and arrow. Auer and Newell Warren were the ones that had the dogs. They treed this 160-pound male cougar. He was up in a scrub pinion. They said, "Oh, we don't get him in that easy of a shot. Let's kick him out and get more practice and let him tree it again." They did and that lion came out with all four feet out and hit about your feet from me. Boy, it spooked me. He went and treed him in a Douglas fir about forty or fifty feet, maybe even further than that, and there was a hole and a limb down through it. I started to go over to shoot. Newell said, "Dale, if you miss him, you're going to be the laughing stock in Rangely." It wasn't an easy shot. So, I walked up to where I was going to shoot and nobody was there except me and the lion. I pulled the bow back and picked my spot and relaxed

and released the arrow and it went to its mark and that ended it.

KI: What did you do with the hide?

Dale: I had it made it into a rug. After I had it for a few years, whoever tanned it for me didn't put poison or something in it to kill the bugs and bugs started eating on it. I cut the feet off and the head, I've still got them. I tasted the cougar meat. The Indians say it's like pork. It was kind of like pork; it was sweet, but it didn't taste like pork to me. It tasted like cougar. I guess it was good enough. It was just the way I feel about eating a cat. It's good looking. You'd be surprised.

Did you ever see a bear dressed out? It looks like a human hanging out there. They gave me a piece of the meat. It was all cooked and everything and I took a bite of it. It wasn't all that bad. I handed it to the partner I had, and he said that was better than deer meat. I said, "You eat it."

I've had the opportunity to try a lot of different meat: buffalo, moose, elk, and deer, and tasted bear, puma, and cougar. I could have gotten me a bear if I'd wanted to, with a bow, but I didn't. I run onto a four-point buck. I don't know what killed it. It was full of yellow jackets and the bears was eating off of it. They weren't there then. All I would have to've done was get me a blind in a good spot where they couldn't scent me, up in the air especially. They don't get your scent if you're in a blind up high. Anyway, I decided I didn't want to shoot a bear and I'll never shoot another cougar. In fact, I shot four, that one with a bow and arrow and two with a .57 magnum pistol, the other with a .22. That was total over years. They used to give you a bounty of \$50 for shooting a cougar. Now they have hunts, get two or three thousands dollars from rich people to shoot one.

KI: I really appreciate you talking with today. You have lived a very interesting life and I'm sure others will enjoy reading about it.